

Johann Sebastian Bach: Neue Ausgabe Sämtlicher Werke, Serie III, Band 1: Motetten (ed. Konrad Ameln), Bärenreiter, 1965 [NBA III/I]

Johann Sebastian Bach: Neue Ausgabe Sämtlicher Werke, Serie II, Band 1: Motetten, Kritischer Bericht (ed. Konrad Ameln), Bärenreiter, 1967 [NBA KB III/I]

Klaus Hofmann: *Johann Sebastian Bach: Die Motetten* (Bärenreiter, 2003)

At the end of movement 2 of the autograph composing score of *BWV 225*, J. S. Bach personally notes the following under the concluding ms. 207-220:

NBA KB III/I, p. 29

Der 2 Vers. ist wie d erste, nur daß die Chöre ümwechseln, nur dz. 1ste Chor den Choral, dz 2dre die Aria singe.

NBA III/I, p. 26

Der 2. Versus ist wie der erste, nur daß die Chöre ümwechseln, nur das erste Chor den Choral, das andre die Aria singe.

Hofmann, p. 80

Der 2. Versus ist wie der erste, nur daß die Chöre ümwechseln, nur [nun?] das 1ste Chor den Choral, das 2dre [andre] die Aria singe.

My attempt at a translation/interpretation:

[At this point in the score at the end of the second movement and before beginning the third] the second verse [of the chorale] is to be sung like the first except that the [two] choirs are to switch to singing the parts of the other choir so that the first choir

*[which had been singing the aria] should sing the chorale and the second choir
[which had been singing the chorale] should sing the aria.*

The NBA KB, p. 29, explains that the rendition of Bach's note supplied by Wüllner in BG 39, S. XXVI is imprecise. Philipp Spitta tried to improve it slightly but still offered a confused explanation [details regarding this are given on p. 80 of Hofmann's book cited above].

The Chorale Text:

The 3rd verse of "Nun lob, mein Seel, den Herren" by Johann Gramann (1487-1541)

The other verse that Bach used cannot be documented. This 'other' verse is designated by Bach as "Aria".